



# Town of Chatham

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 1, 2020

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### ESSENTIAL SERVICES GUIDANCE: LODGING

Governor Baker extended the order prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people and updated the list of Essential Services on March 31<sup>st</sup>. In support, the Department of Public Health issued Guidance regarding limitations on “lodgings” impacted by the Governors Order. The Order applies to “...hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfasts, and short-term residential rentals including those arranged through online hosting platforms such as Airbnb or VRBO”.

The Guidance specifies limited purposes under which lodging is allowed as a COVID-19 Essential Service and states “...the provision and occupancy of lodging for leisure, vacation, and other purposes may not continue.”

Therefore, all lodging for any purpose other than Essential Service, as defined, is prohibited. Those persons occupying lodging as of March 31, 2020 may remain in their current lodgings through the end of their originally scheduled stay but may not extend their originally scheduled stay except for one of the allowed COVID-19 Essential Services purposes. During the period of the Governors Order persons with future reservations, bookings, or agreements to occupy lodgings may not exercise those agreements or occupy those lodgings.

The full Guidance is available here: ([https://www.chatham-ma.gov/sites/chathamma/files/uploads/hotel-motel\\_guidance\\_03-31-20\\_.pdf](https://www.chatham-ma.gov/sites/chathamma/files/uploads/hotel-motel_guidance_03-31-20_.pdf))

There is a substantial amount of information available on COVID-19 at the local, regional, State, and Federal level available online. We urge residents and visitors to visit the following sites for accurate, updated information:

1. <https://www.chatham-ma.gov/home/pages/covid-19-coronavirus-information>

To receive email alerts when the Town's COVID-19 webpage is updated with new information or resources, click the EMAIL ME button on the Town's home page ([www.chatham-ma.gov](http://www.chatham-ma.gov)) to subscribe. (note – if you've previously signed up for other page alerts, you'll need to sign-up again")

2. <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/>

A further source of information is the Massachusetts's 2-1-1 system (dial 211, #Call2Talk, or [www.mass211.org](http://www.mass211.org)) a free, confidential, multi-lingual source for information and referral to local resources.

Any person who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 such as a fever, and cough or difficulty breathing is urged to self-isolate and call your healthcare provider for medical advice.

All persons are urged to maintain social distancing (6 feet from other persons) whenever possible and to wash hands, utilize alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and practice proper respiratory etiquette. High risk individuals, including older adults, those with underlying medical conditions (heart or lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, weakened immune system, anyone who is pregnant), are urged to avoid large gatherings.

Finally, please contact the Chatham Emergency Operations Center at (508) 945-5191 should you have any questions or need assistance at any time.

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